

BRYCE'S NEW VIEW OF DEMOCRACIES
Viscount Bases Review of United States Affairs on Fresh Observations.
SPOILS SYSTEM DYING
Progress for Better Government Is Seen in This and Other Lands Visited.

SWITZERLAND IS UNIQUE
Great Piece of Reporting, Based on Facts, in New Work of Two Volumes.

MODERN DEMOCRACIES. By James Bryce (Viscount Bryce). In two volumes. The Macmillan Company.

The plain man would read more history if it weren't so many times diluted. Herodotus with all his fairy tales gives a better notion of how it actually felt to be alive two thousand years ago than is to be found in more scientific method in his madhouse. Lord Bryce tells no fairy tales but, like Herodotus, he tells in a very simple, friendly way things he has picked up for himself. Without being so credulous as the old Greek story teller, the modern historian has a good deal of the antique simplicity and directness of "Modern Democracies" is a great piece of reporting. The author has gone to the countries he writes about, watched their political machine in operation, talked with their leading men and their obscure citizens and drawn his own conclusions. He declares:

"The best way to get a genuine and exact first hand knowledge of the data is to mix in practical politics." He knows British statescraft at first hand and his book knowledge of the world's history is probably as great as that of any living man. With such means of comparison and understanding, he went to France, Switzerland, the United States, South America, Canada, Mexico, Australia and New Zealand for his facts. He is a philosopher and deals with principles in the summing up. But he hammers home the belief that any progress to be made toward better government must be based on a knowledge of "facts, facts, facts." His repetition of the word proves the value he places on exact knowledge.

Independent Study of U. S.

The section dealing with the United States is not a rewriting or condensation of his "American Commonwealth." He gives here "a new and independent study of American institutions." New phenomena have since appeared which throw further light on the nature of popular government, and these he has endeavored to set forth and comment upon, studying the facts afresh and unbiassed by the judgments of thirty years ago.

No honest American can take exception to the unfavorable criticisms made on the ground that they are simply one more Englishman's fault finding. There is nothing in common between the acrid pages of Dickens's American Notes and these judicious conclusions. Lord Bryce only repeats what Mr. Taft and other distinguished Americans have said of the law's delay. Writing of the courts he says:

"Taking the States as a whole, one may say that in most of them the bench does not enjoy the respect which ought to be felt for the ministers of justice, and that in some few States enough is known to justify distrust. . . . In the United States the procedure are antiquated and absurdly technical, and most of the codes of procedure adopted in some States have been ill-drawn and cumbersome. The intelligence of justice in scientific departments is nowhere so thorough as in the United States, help the weak judge over many a stilt, while favorite corruption, at all times hard to prove, attract little notice unless the case affects some public interest. . . . The administration of civil justice leaves much to be desired, that of criminal justice is far worse. There are few States, perhaps two or three outside New England—New Jersey is one—where it is either prompt or efficient. . . . Many offenders escape whom everybody knows to be guilty, and the deterrent effect of punishment is correspondingly reduced. . . . But the observer evidently prefers to note improvement. He describes with enthusiasm the advance of civil service since 1883. The spoils system he has counted "one of the worst points in the American Government." But now the quality of Government employees is steadily rising. And the use of specialists in scientific departments is highly commended. "As a home of science," declared Lord Bryce, "Washington is no whit behind London and Paris."

There are severe strictures on newspapers of a certain type, and in general he finds no one paper here so powerful an influence as certain journals of other countries. But he finds the exposure of corruption a great service. The agencies of news are held to a sharper accountability because "public opinion is the real ruler of America. I mean that there exists a judgment and sentiment of the whole nation which is imperfectly expressed through its representative legislatures, is not to be measured by an analysis of votes cast at elections, is not easily gathered from the most diligent study of the press, but is, nevertheless, a real force, impalpable as the wind, yet a force which all are trying to discover and nearly all to obey."

The sketch of Brazil's Government gives fair valuation of the good points

"Eggs Is Bugs"---

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but finds unfortunate elements of weakness from the democratic point of view. "Elections," he writes, "are conducted with little respect for legality and, when fraud fails to secure the desired result, a resort to force may be looked for. Not long ago the ballot boxes in one of the larger States were, because it was feared that they would show a majority for a candidate opposed to the Government, seized by a body of police disguised as rioters, carried off to a distance and destroyed, whereupon the Governor of the State exercised his constitutional right of providing for the contingency of a loss of ballots and appointed a Governmental candidate to the office which the election had been held to fill. There is plenty of ability, and an even greater profusion of oratorical talent, among the legislators, but intricate rules, and, as Mr. Clemens observed after his visit some ten years ago, 'the constitution enjoys a chiefly theoretic authority.' An exceptionally shrewd statesman may like the strong leader who lately fell a victim to assassination, be effective master of the country."

"The republic is in fact an oligarchy, not of land owning families, like that of Chile, but of such among the richer men, whether landlords or heads of industrial, financial or commercial enterprises, as occupy themselves with politics. Like all oligarchies, they use their power for their personal benefit, yet with some regard to national interests also, for the Brazilians are intensely proud of their magnificent country and claim for it the leadership of South America. But between soaring patriotism and self-regarding schemes the welfare of the masses receives less attention than it needs. Something might be done for local self-government, unfavorable as the conditions are, and a large extension of education is urgently required. The traveler is surprised to find that in a country rich in poets and orators there does not exist any duly equipped university. One is sometimes reminded of the slave States of the American Union as they stood before the civil war, where a Government, nominally democratic, was really the rule of a few. It is only in the thirty-two years since slavery was abolished in Brazil, where the States of the temperate south, where an industrious He devotes to it an amount of space out of proportion with the country's geographical size. Here are two populations, mainly of European stock, has attained prosperity, to cast themselves loose from the tropical regions in order to form a separate republic, they might create in time a real democracy."

Healthy Tone in Swiss Politics.
It is evident that Switzerland has won a place apart in Lord Bryce's esteem. Paragraphs in his summing up of the Swiss republic: "The 'tone of public life' is best conveyed by comparing it with that of other countries. When the visitor enters the halls in which the Federal Assembly meets and catches the proceedings and talks with the statesmen, he notes the absence of that air of pomp and ceremony which custom and tradition have preserved in France and England. At first he is struck by the simplicity; little appears of the dignity with which the historic greatness of a country invests the men who guide its destinies, whatever their personal worth. As in plain almost to bareness. As in earlier centuries the courtiers and diplomatists of France and Austria disparaged the republican manners of

Holland and Switzerland, so one notes a blunt homeliness and want of external polish which censorious tongues would call roughness. But there is an austerity, less unfairness in controversy, less of wounding insinuation than in the Chambers of France, less commonness and rudeness, sometimes descending to vulgarity, than in those of America and Australia.

"One feels in Switzerland the presence, along with a sort of rustic simplicity, of a natural rough hewn dignity, the product of a long tradition of national independence and individual freedom, and rooted in a sense of equality which respects itself without disparaging others. The observer finds nothing in the proceedings or external of the Swiss Chambers to touch his imagination, as the imagination of American students is touched by features of the British Parliament so familiar to the Englishman that he fails to mark them. But the visitor's judgment is impressed. He sees solid, thoughtful men, with strong and cool heads, trying to do their best for the country which is the first love of their hearts. There is an atmosphere of reciprocal respect. Representatives do not inveigh against their colleagues. They trust the Federal Councilors. The people trust both."

Velled in Frosale Humdrum.

"Taking the country as a whole, the tone of public life in the Confederation, in most of the cantons and in the communes, is healthier than what one finds in France, Italy or Brazil, or many States of the American Union and provinces of Canada, and not inferior to that of Britain, of Australia and New Zealand, of Holland, Norway and Chile."

"The scanty attention which Swiss institutions have received, and the inadequate recognition of their value to students of political philosophy, seem largely due to the unexciting and what may be called the prosaic humdrum character of Swiss political life. There are no sensational events to draw the eyes of the outer world; no Cabinet crises, as in England; no brilliant displays of oratory, as in the French Chamber; no dramatic surprises, as in the huge national nominating conventions of the United States. . . . Great readers of history and their chief enjoyment in studying these things is their own lives and however quiet their tempers. They are thrilled by facts of strategy, like those of Hannibal or Belshazzar or Marlborough, and by political conflicts where defeat is suddenly turned into victory by brilliant oratory or resourceful statesmanship. In reading of these things few stop to think of the sufferings war brings, the bitterness and waste of effort that accompany internal strife, and many dismiss as dull the pages that record the steady progress of a nation in civil administration along well drawn lines of economic progress."

"So the achievements of modern Switzerland, just because they do not appeal to imagination or emotion, have been little regarded, though directed with unusual success to what ought to be the main aims of government—the comfort and well-being of the individual, the satisfaction of his desire for intellectual pleasures, the maintenance of peace and kindly relations between social classes. The virtues of Swiss government, clad in plain gray homespun, have not caught the world's eye. But the homespun keeps out the cold and has worn well."

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Less than a quarter of the former price!

The practical and good-looking fabric that makes such splendid sports skirts, at a price that is a fraction of its actual worth. It is impossible to import material like this for the price per yard that we are offering it! And it comes in especially attractive plaid effects, with colors smartly combined.

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All-wool weaves that are full of character, from England, Ireland and America, in a wide range of the most attractive colorings—heather mixtures or plain shades in soft browns, tans, grays, greens, amber and rose. 54 to 56 inches wide; reduced for this Summer Dressmaking Sale from our regular stocks.

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Special emphasis on one of the most favored Silks this season. All silk; excellent colorings; 39-inch; reduced from our stock.

Satin Crepe, \$2.88 Yd. 39-inch	Black Charmeuse, \$2.39 Yd. 40-inch	Black Crepe de Chine, \$1.49 Yd. From \$1.94 yd. 39 inches wide
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Beautiful Irish Laces, 10c to \$2.50

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Just nothing is lovelier for trimming than real Irish laces, and this selection includes every sort—headings, various size insertions and some exquisite collar widths. The reductions are made on our regular stock prices and are extremely worth while.

Irish Beading, 10c from 15c yd. Irish Insertions, 15c to 39c. Formerly 19c to 58c yd. Plain mesh, or some with designs. Rose Design Insertions and Edges, 49c from 75c yd. Heavy Irish Insertions, 59c to 98c yd. Formerly 98c to \$1.59. 1 to 2½ in. wide, also Edges. Baby Irish Insertions, \$1.19 to \$1.98 yd. Formerly \$2.98 to \$3.25. 1¼ to 2 in. widths, rose and shamrock designs.	Baby Irish and Heavy Insertions and Edges, \$2.50 yd. from \$3.50. 2 and 3 in. wide, in rose and shamrock designs. Real Irish All Overs, 18 in. wide, \$9.98 and \$7.95. Formerly \$12.50 and \$15.00. Valenciennes Lace, 35c piece. 12 yards in a piece, at a price that it would be hard to duplicate.
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A New York manufacturer has sold us his surplus stocks of this favorite Summer fabric at a ridiculously low price. In addition we have taken our regular stocks of this material that regularly sell at \$1.19 a yard and have marked them for this special "Dressmaking Sale" event at the single price of 39c a yard.

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